

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03413 132133Z

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MEDIA REACTION FOR KZLY 13.

ALL MORNING DAILIES GAVE EQUAL COVERAGE TO UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION POLICY AND TO CONCURRENT INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION PROTEST MEETING. FRONT PAGE STORIES WITH PIX JUMPED TO FULL PAGES INSIDE ON BOTH MEETINGS, INCLUDING AMPLE FEATURES AND SIDEBARS ON PERSONALITIES INVOLVED. ALL DEVOTED EDITORIALS TO SUBJECTNQF COMMUNICATION POLICY.

LEADING LA NACION SAID, "THE 'INTERNATIONAL SCANDAL'... APPEARS TO BE DUE SOLELY TO INACCURATE VERSIONS OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS TO BE STUDIED." AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER THAN A POUND OF CURE, HOWEVER, AND THAT DRAFT DOCUMENT WHICH TALKED ABOUT THE 'STATE CONTROL OF COMMUNICATION AND ADVERTISING MEDIA' SHOULD NEVER HAVE EVEN BEEN BROUGHT FORTH.

"BUT BETTER LATE THAN NEVER. THERE IS STILL TIME TO

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 03413 132133Z

WITHDRAW FROM THE AGENDA THAT POLEMICAL PROJECT, WHICH

WOULD HAVE SERVED ONLY TO HARDEN POSITIONS.

"...THE IAPA STILL HAS REASON TO HOLD FORTH SINCE THE INAUGURATION SPEECHES DISPLAYED A CLEARLY INTERVENTIONIST TONE TOWARD THE MEDIA, WHICH THE LATTER REJECT AS UNNECESSARY AND DANGEROUS.

"EVEN THOUGH (THE CONFERENCE) WILL NOT APPROVE 'EXECUTIVE DECISIONS, BUT ONLY RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH EACH OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL BE FREE TO TRANSFORM INTO LEGISLATION", IT WOULD BE HEARTENING TO SEE UNESCO TURN DOWN ANYTHING WITH THE LEAST TAINT OF PRESS CONTROL." INDEPENDENT LA REPUBLICA WARNED OF TWO DANGERS FOR FREEDOM AMONG THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS. "IF THE SUBJECT OF GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCIES COULD BE THE TROJAN HORSE FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO GET INTO THE COMMUNICATION MEDIA BY THE BACK DOOR, THE SAME THING MIGHTSXE FEARED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSITION THAT THE MEDIA SHOULD BE INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIALDEVELOPMENT OR THAT THEY MUST BE INCORPORATED INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS. "THE ONLY THING FOR SURE IS THAT OUR COUNTRIES' DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM FREEDOM.

"THE FIRST DUTY OF THE PRESS IS ITS FAITHFULNESS TO TRUTH, LIBERTY, JUSTICE -- UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES CONCEIVED BEFORE ANY DEVELOPMENT POLICY. ON THIS OCCASION AS IN OTHERS, THE JARGON AND CLICHES USED IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS CONSTITUTE A SOPHISTIC TRICK." ON THE OTHER HAND, PRO-GOVERNMENT EXCELSPER DISMISSED IAPA CHARGES ABOUT THE BOGOTA REPORT AND ABOUT UNESCO'S POWER TO JUSTIFY PRESS CONTROLYQV HOWEVER, IT WARNED, "GIVEN THE STATE OF THINGS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, WITH ITS INCREDIBLE NUMBER OF MILITAGE DICTATORSHIPS, AND THE COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN CUBA, WE CANNOT PREDICT WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE. IN ANY CASE -- GIVEN THE TRADITION OF HYPOCRICY AMONG CREOLE DICTATORSHIPS -- IT WILL NOT BE SURPRISING THAT THEY PROCLAIM THEMSELVES DEFENDERS OF THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND THIS MIGHT BE A CASE -- UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAN JO 03413 132133Z

PERHAPS THE FIRST -- IN WHICH SUCH A HYPOCRICY WILL BE USEFUL."
STOLZENBACH

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